

### Amendments to the Claims

**1. (Currently amended)** A polypeptide ~~obtained by cleaving DANCE with a DANCE-specific protease~~, which consists of an substantially the same amino acid sequence having 90% or more amino acid sequence identity to an as the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:6, and has one or more activity selected from the group consisting of integrin-binding activity and homo-complex formation activity.

**2. (Currently amended)** A polypeptide of claim 1, which is a polypeptide of any of the following (a) - (c):

(a) a polypeptide consisting of the an amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:6;

(b) a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO: 10; or

(c) a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO: 14.

**3. (Currently amended)** A polynucleotide ~~having~~ consisting of a nucleotide sequence that encodes the polypeptide of claim 1.

**4. (Currently amended)** A polynucleotide of claim 3, which is a polynucleotide of any of the following (a) - (c):

(a) a polynucleotide consisting of the a nucleotide sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:5;

(b) a polynucleotide consisting of a nucleotide sequence shown by SEQ ID NO: 9; or

(c) a polynucleotide consisting of a nucleotide sequence shown by SEQ ID NO: 13.

**5. (Currently amended)** A polypeptide ~~obtained by cleaving DANCE with a DANCE-specific protease~~, which consists of an substantially the same amino acid sequence having 90% or more amino acid sequence identity to an as the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:8, and has one or more activity selected from the group consisting of lysyl oxidase-binding activity, lysyl oxidase-like-1-binding activity and LTBP2-binding activity.

**6. (Currently amended)** A polypeptide of claim 5, which is a polypeptide of any of the following (a) - (c):

- (a) a polypeptide consisting of ~~an~~ the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:8;
- (b) a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO: 12; or
- (c) a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO: 16.

**7. (Currently amended)** A polynucleotide ~~having~~ consisting of a nucleotide sequence that encodes the polypeptide of claim 5.

**8. (Currently amended)** A polynucleotide of claim 7, which is a polynucleotide of any of the following (a) - (c):

- (a) a polynucleotide consisting of ~~the~~ a nucleotide sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:7;
- (b) a polynucleotide consisting of a nucleotide sequence shown by SEQ ID NO: 11; or
- (c) a polynucleotide consisting of a nucleotide sequence shown by SEQ ID NO: 15.

**9. (Original)** A method of cleaving DANCE, which comprises contacting DANCE with a DANCE-specific protease.

**10. (Currently amended)** An antibody having specific affinity for the polypeptide of claim 1 ~~or~~ 2.

**11. (Currently amended)** A monoclonal antibody having specific affinity for the polypeptide of claim 5 ~~or~~ 6.

**12. (Currently amended)** A method of determining an amount of DANCE cleaved, comprising measuring the amount of DANCE cleaved in a biological sample from an animal.

**13. (Currently amended)** A reagent for determining an ~~kit for measuring the~~ amount of DANCE cleaved, which comprises an anti-DANCE antibody.

**14. (Original)** A DANCE mutant incorporating an amino acid mutation in the DANCE cleavage site with a DANCE-specific protease so that the mutant exhibits resistance to the protease.

**15. (Currently amended)** A polynucleotide consisting of, or comprising ~~having~~ a nucleotide sequence that encodes the DANCE mutant polypeptide of claim 14.

**16. (Currently amended)** A DANCE complex comprising at least two DANCEs, wherein the DANCE is normal DANCE or the DANCE mutant of claim 14.

**17. (Original)** The complex of claim 16 which comprises at least two kinds of DANCE which are distinguishable forms.

**18. (Currently amended)** The complex of claim 16 ~~or 17~~, which further comprises lysyl oxidase and/or LTBP2.

**19. (Currently amended)** A DANCE complex comprising at least one DANCE and ~~lysyl oxidase and/or~~ LTBP2, wherein the DANCE is normal DANCE or the DANCE mutant of claim 14.

**20. (Currently amended)** A method of preparing a DANCE complex comprising at least two DANCEs, which comprises contacting at least two DANCEs to form a complex, wherein the DANCE is normal DANCE or the DANCE mutant of claim 14.

**21. (Currently amended)** A method of preparing a DANCE complex comprising at least one DANCE and ~~lysyl oxidase and/or~~ LTBP2, which comprises contacting at least one DANCE with ~~lysyl oxidase and/or~~ LTBP2 to form a complex, wherein the DANCE is normal DANCE or the DANCE mutant of claim 14.

**22. (Currently amended)** A screening method for a substance capable of regulating the activity of a DANCE-specific protease, which comprises the following steps (a) - (d): ~~(a), (b) and (c)~~:  
(a) contacting a test substance with the DANCE-specific protease;  
(b) measuring the activity of the DANCE-specific protease resulting from the step (a) above;  
~~and (c)~~ (d) comparing the activity with an activity of a DANCE-specific protease obtained without contacting the test substance;

~~(e)~~ (d) selecting a test substance that regulates the activity of the DANCE-specific protease on the basis of the results of the comparison in (c) ~~(b)~~ above.

**23. (Original)** The method of claim 22 which is a method for identifying a regulator of the formation of elastic fibers.

**24. (Currently amended)** A screening method for a substance capable of regulating the activity of a DANCE-specific protease, which comprises the following steps (a) - (d): ~~(a), (b) and (e)~~:

(a) administering a test substance to ~~an~~ a non-human animal;

(b) measuring the activity of the DANCE-specific protease resulting from the step (a) above; ~~;~~

~~and~~ (c) comparing the activity with an activity of a DANCE-specific protease obtained without administering the test substance;

~~(e)~~ (d) selecting a test substance that regulates the activity of the DANCE-specific protease on the basis of the results of the comparison in (c) ~~(b)~~ above.

**25. (Currently amended)** A screening method for a substance capable of regulating the formation of a DANCE complex comprising at least two DANCES, which comprises the following steps (a) - (d): ~~(a), (b) and (e)~~:

(a) contacting at least two DANCES in the presence of a test substance;

(b) measuring the amount of the DANCE complex resulting from the step (a) above; ~~;~~ ~~and~~

(c) comparing the amount with the amount of the DANCE complex obtained in the absence of the test substance;

~~(e)~~ (d) selecting a test substance that regulates the formation of the DANCE complex on the basis of the results of the comparison in (c) ~~(b)~~ above,

wherein the DANCE is normal DANCE or the DANCE mutant of claim 14.

**26. (Original)** The method of claim 25 wherein at least two kinds of DANCE which are distinguishable forms are used.

**27. (Currently amended)** A screening method for a substance capable of regulating the formation of a DANCE complex comprising at least one DANCE and ~~lysyl oxidase and/or~~ LTBP2, which comprises the following steps (a) - (d): ~~(a), (b) and (c)~~:

(a) contacting at least one DANCE with ~~lysyl oxidase and/or~~ LTBP2 in the presence of a test substance;

(b) measuring the amount of the DANCE complex resulting from the step (a) above; ~~and~~

(c) comparing the amount with the amount of the DANCE complex obtained in the absence of the test substance;

~~(e)-(d)~~ selecting a test substance that regulates the formation of the DANCE complex on the basis of the results of the comparison in (c) ~~(b)~~ above,

wherein the DANCE is normal DANCE or the DANCE mutant of claim 14.

**28. (Cancelled)**

**29. (Original)** A screening method for a DANCE-specific protease with DANCE cleavage activity as the index.

**30-32. (Cancelled)**

**33. (Currently amended)** A kit comprising the following (a) and (b):

(a) DANCE or the DANCE mutant of claim 14, or an expression vector thereof ~~a polynucleotide having a nucleotide sequence that encodes DANCE;~~

(b) at least one of the following components (i) to (iv): ~~(vi)~~;

(i) DANCE which is a distinguishable form from the DANCE (a);

(ii) an expression vector of DANCE ~~a polynucleotide having a nucleotide sequence that encodes DANCE~~ which is a distinguishable form from the DANCE (a);

(iii) ~~lysyl oxidase;~~

~~(iv) a polynucleotide having a nucleotide sequence that encodes lysyl oxidase;~~

~~(v) LTBP2;~~

~~(vi) a polynucleotide having a nucleotide sequence that encodes LTBP2~~

(iv) LTBP2 expression vector.

**34. (Original)** A method of identifying a cell expressing a DANCE-specific protease, which comprises the following steps (a) to (b):

- (a) contacting DANCE with a certain animal cell;
- (b) determining whether or not the DANCE is cleaved.

**35. (New)** The polypeptide of claim 1, which is a polypeptide derived from human or mouse.

**36. (New)** The polynucleotide of claim 3, which is a polynucleotide derived from human or mouse.

**37. (New)** The polypeptide of claim 5, which is a polypeptide derived from human or mouse.

**38. (New)** The polynucleotide of claim 7, which is a polynucleotide derived from human or mouse.

**39. (New)** The method of claim 9, wherein DANCE is contacted with DANCE-specific protease in culture medium comprising a cell expressing DANCE-specific protease, or in a fraction from the medium, which has an activity of cleaving DANCE.

**40. (New)** An expression vector comprising the polynucleotide of claim 15 and a promoter operably linked thereto.

**41. (New)** A cell transformed with the expression vector of claim 40.

**42. (New)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising the DANCE mutant of claim 14 or the expression vector of claim 40, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

**43. (New)** The antibody of claim 10, which is a monoclonal antibody.

**44. (New)** A hybridoma producing the monoclonal antibody of claim 11.

**45. (New)** A hybridoma producing the monoclonal antibody of claim 43.

**46. (New)** A hybridoma producing the monoclonal antibody of claim 45.